



NEWS RELEASE

USDA FOREST SERVICE • Intermountain Region 324 25th STREET
OGDEN, UTAH 84401 • Voice: (801) 625-5331 • Web: <http://www.fs.fed.us/r4>

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Contact: Martin Jensen 801-625-5331

FOREST SERVICE DEFERS DECISION ON AUTHORIZATION OF HELICOPTER LANDINGS IN FRANK CHURCH-RIVER OF NO RETURN WILDERNESS

OGDEN, UTAH JANUARY 10, 2006 – Intermountain Regional Forester Jack Troyer has deferred a decision on whether to permit the landing of helicopters by Idaho Department of Fish and Game in the Frank Church-River of No Return Wilderness and will work with the State to refine its' proposal.

"Given the depth of the comments we received from the public and the complexity of the issues raised, it is appropriate that we take more time to analyze the remarks," said Jack Troyer, Intermountain Regional Forester. "The Forest Service will analyze the comments and then work with the State of Idaho. Once we have a refined proposal from the State we will determine the appropriate level of environmental documentation needed. It is important to ensure the protection of wilderness while balancing the need for Idaho Fish and Game to manage populations of gray wolves."

Idaho Department of Fish and Game has sought permission from the Forest Service to land helicopters in the Frank Church-River of No Return Wilderness to radio collar gray wolves in support of wolf recovery efforts. Authority to permit the landing of helicopters within congressionally designated wilderness in the Intermountain Region resides with the Regional Forester.

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